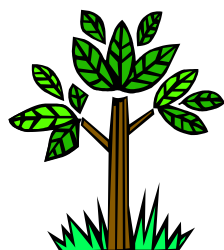


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# The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events  
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 7  
July, 2004

## Calendar of Events

Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 8:30am	Employee training, Grafton True Value, Lawns
Aug 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00am	Lawn Renovation Clinic, Yorkshire Drive
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup> , 8:30am	Employee training, Grafton True Value, Understanding Fertilizers
Aug 11 <sup>th</sup> , 6:30pm	4-H Chrysanthemum Project - Marketing
Aug 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Jim on Annual Leave
Aug 14 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00am	Lawn Maintenance Clinic, Grafton True Value
Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> , 8:30am	Employee training, Grafton True Value, Lime
Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jim on Annual Leave
Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 8:30am	Employee training, Grafton True Value, Mowing/Watering
Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>	Collection of Agricultural Pesticides, Location: Service Drive
Sep 18 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia State Arboretum at Blandy Farm (education opportunity)
Sep 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 6:30pm	4H Mums Project: Growing Mums for Fun and Profit

## Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Dianne Taylor at 868-4090, e-mail: [taylors@exis.net](mailto:taylors@exis.net). The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication, please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

### *Master Gardener Mission Statement*

*Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

## Notes from Jim

Hear Say- Many you have asked and wonder when Kathy and I will be doing Hear Say Gardening Radio on WHRO FM 89.5. At this point, the program has been moved to the third Wednesday of the month due to a program scheduling conflict. We will not have Hear Say on July 21. There will continue to be discussion as to the timing of the program. If you want to lend your opinion to the programming staff, please let Erin know at [erin.wickersham@whro.org](mailto:erin.wickersham@whro.org).

Thank you Teresa for the wonderful job that you did in setting up the Landscape Study Series. The locations that we visited were great and the instructors help to complete our objectives of discussing proper landscape design principles. Teresa will be in this role again for 2005 so if you have interesting landscapes for us to visit locally please contact Teresa with your input. [BennettTeresaH@aol.com](mailto:BennettTeresaH@aol.com) Thank you.

Our fall programming is being discussed and planned for in August, September and October. Tom Duggins has done a great job to organize the lawn clinics and the educational trainings for the employees of True Value Hardware. The clinics are every Saturday in the month of September. October 2 is the Landscape Extravaganza and Dottie Poiniatowski is working and coordinating the speakers for this event. This event will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church off of Route 17. Marshall Booker is back from his fellowship experience and ready to make the plans for the fall home gardener program. We will make plans to offer this at the Yorktown Public Library. The 2004 Peninsula Master Gardener Training will begin on September 7 with an orientation and graduation is expected on November 16. The interview committee is meeting with the applicants and they will be notified of their status.

Lots of educational programs. Word of mouth is the best advertising technique that we have and you are some of our best promoters. Please promote the educational programs to your friends. A well-educated citizenry is the best defense against improper horticultural applications. I know that we continue to train many people and our efforts are rewarded as I hear more and more people adopt our recommended practices.



## Getting Your Hours Completed

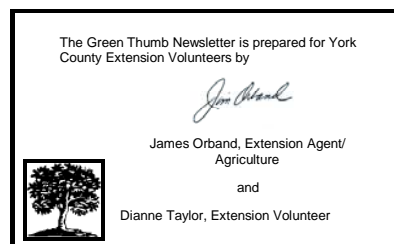
Now that summer has settled in, I would like to remind you of a couple of items concerning hours:

**Class of 2003**--You must complete your 50 hours of service back to the county by December 31st. As the year progresses, the MG programs slow down; so take advantage of the programs that are currently active to achieve your hours. The Learning Garden can always use your help or ask Jim or Hank for suggestions.

Veteran MGs are reminded that they have until December 31st to fulfill 20 hours of service PLUS 8 hours of training to remain in an active status. You can see your hours each time I send you a report. For those without email, I can print your report.

A big thank you to all who have tried so diligently to get your hours caught up and then to maintain them. This is very important to Jim when he has to do prepare his reports.

Let me know if you have questions or need clarifications. I'm happy to help. Terry Hanson, 872-9639.





## Planning Begins for the October Landscape Extravaganza

The Landscape Extravaganza will be held on October 2, 2004 at St. Joan of Arc Church on Route 17. Introductions and orientation will begin at 8:45 am. There will be 6 classes offered with a choice of three. Each class will be 50 minutes long. Classes begin at 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 am and will end at 12:00 noon. There is no cost to attend; however, everyone must be registered in advance. As soon as I have the class schedule and the speakers lined up, I will provide you with more information. Also, I need volunteers for class moderators. Please contact me if you would like to help. Dottie Poniatowski, 868-0750, [poni6@cox.net](mailto:poni6@cox.net)



## Master Gardener Resource Page

Here's a reminder for you. Now that we are well into the summer gardening season, we will be encountering all kinds of problems in the garden—too much rain, not enough rain, ugly microbes and insects eating our precious plants, various diseases, strange plants showing up (weeds), etc. The MG Resource Page contains all sorts of help for the gardener and links to really interesting websites. Here is the website address:

[http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/programareas/mastergardeners/master\\_gardener\\_resource\\_page.htm](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/programareas/mastergardeners/master_gardener_resource_page.htm)

If you haven't spent some time exploring this MG resource page, you are missing some great pictures and information. Dianne Taylor, 868-4090.



## Horticultural Therapy Notes

The Hort Therapy group continues to ask that you save lids from laundry detergent bottles for flower arrangements at the convalescent center. Please contact Clare at 223-0786 to make arrangements for pick-up, or give to any member of the Hort Therapy team. The next Hort Therapy session will be held at the York Convalescent Center on Wednesday, July 21, at 10:15 a.m. New volunteers are always welcome.

## E-mail Update

Sybil Przypek = [Sybilp37@aol.com](mailto:Sybilp37@aol.com)

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*We're on the Web!*

[www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)



## Cornell Develops Perennial Website

Cornell Univ has launched a new website for perennials. The address follows:

[http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/Cornell\\_Herbaceous](http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/Cornell_Herbaceous)

This site contains photos and growth characteristics for more than 150 perennial plants. The database is fully searchable by plant name, height, flower time, and color. Plants include those considered to be commercial perennials along with a number of lesser-known plants. The site was developed by master's degree student Allison Mayer with horticulture professor Bill Miller (mailto:wbm8@cornell.edu). The site is hosted by Texas A&M Univ professor Dan Lineberger who is Web master of Texas Aggie Horticulture. Plant information on the site is based on observations in Ithaca, N.Y., USDA Hardiness Zone 5.



## Did You Know? Edible Plants

Did you know that many common plants we grow for their appearance and fragrance are edible? For xample, in ancient times, many Asian countries grew daylilies for food as well as for their beauty. Even today, people use their roots as an addition to salads and their petals to add color. Other edibles are cattails, lotus leaves, banana blossoms, calendula or marigolds, carnations, chrysanthemums, bee balm or monarda, and of course, herbs of all descriptions.

You can learn more about edible flowers at:

<http://whatscookingamerica.net/EdibleFlowers/EdibleFlowersMain.htm>

Here is an interesting recipe for a monarda sandwich spread.

### ***Monarda Sandwich Spread***

Try this on bagels or cinnamon raisin bread, or use on tea sandwiches and garnish with fresh bee balm flowers for a bright look.

2 8 oz packages cream cheese

1/3 cup canned pineapple chunks, minced

2 tbsp monarda leaves, chopped

1 tbsp spearmint leaves, chopped

Allow the cream cheese to soften to room temperature. Put in processor or blender and pulse on and off until mixture is smooth. Add pineapple and pulse until well mixed. Put mixture in bowl and stir in monarda and spearmint leaves. Refrigerate until cheese has hardened slightly before using.

# July 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 Office closed for 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Holiday	6	7 4-H Chrysanthemum Project, 6:30pm	8 9:00-2:00pm, Jim @ Unit Coord- inators meeting, Richmond	9	10
11	12	13 Jim @ VA Tech	14	15	16	17 Lawn Renovation Clinic, W. Woodland Dr, 10:00am
18	19	20 7:00pm, Bd of Supervisors meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26 Jr. 4-H Camp Week	27 Jr. 4-H Camp Week	28 Jr. 4-H Camp Week	29 Jr. 4-H Camp Week	30 Jr. 4-H Camp Week	31